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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 8 November 1948

SUBJECT Communist Party Funds to Finance Strikes

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Italian Communist Party leaders from Rome and the provinces are reported to have met in Milan on 20 October to discuss the execution of the Moscow orders to provide funds for a program of strikes similar to those in France. The conferees were pessimistic about obtaining the desired results.
2. Since the beginning of October all surplus Italian Communist Party funds have been changed into gold in small lots in order not to force up the price.
3. During the first half of October there were no cash transfers for the Italian Communist Party from Switzerland. There was heavy gold buying in Italy on the part of the French Communist Party which is apparently aware of an imminent deflation.
4. About the tenth of October the Italian Communist Party started buying shares in the Cotoniere Meridionali and withdrew from the market when it had purchases amounting to one half million lire and when the Vatican started buying. The Communist Party then sold out its shares and is now buying Snia Viscosa.
5. Franco Marinotti, head of Snia Viscosa is reportedly donating heavily to the Communist Party and it is believed that Marinotti is paying for the assistance given him by the Party in returning to Italy. It is also thought that Marinotti may be seeking to distract attention from his newly-formed American interests, the purpose of which is to get his personal fortune out of Italy.
6. Cigorini, a Communist lawyer in Milan, is said to be acting for the Mussolini family who have made gifts to the Communist Party of funds in Argentina which, depending on the rate of exchange, are said to amount to three or four million lire.

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